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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /058 W
----------106375 151856Z /73
O R 151734Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8246
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3258

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: DP'S OSVALDO HURTADO TO CHANGE AFFILIATION AND CONTINUE AS VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

REF: QUITO 3237;

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: OSVALDO HURTADO, UNABLE TO RUN UNDER HIS OWN PARTY AFFILIATION FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY, WILL SWITCH TO A CFP AFFILIATION FOR CONVENIENCE. THE TICKET, HEADED BY CFP'S JAIME ROLDOS, IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO REMAIN INTACT. HURTADO DOES NOT THINK THAT GOE MANIPULATION WILL EXTEND TO VOTE COUNTING. IF NOT, THE GOE MAY HAVE FAILED TO DETERMINE FINAL RESULTS OF ELECTIONS THROUGH ITS RECENT ALLEGED STRING-PULLING. END SUMMARY.

2. POPULAR DEMOCRACY (DP) LEADER MAURICIO DAVALOS CONFIRMED NEWS REPORTS TO POLOFF MAY 15 THAT HIS PARTY'S VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE, OSVALDO HURTADO, INTENDED TO AFFILIATE FORMALLY WITH THE CONCENTRATION OF POPULAR FORCES (CFP) IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HIS CAMPAIGN AS CFP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JAIME ROLDOS' RUNNING MATE. THIS DECISION FOLLOWED THE MAY 12
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL THAT THE POPULAR DEMOCRACY PARTY HAD DEFINITIVELY FAILED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMAL RECOGNITION. DAVALOS ALSO SAID THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DP HAD RESOLVED TO REQUEST ALL ITS CANDIDATES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL TO AFFILIATE FORMALLY WITH THE CFP IN ORDER TO CONTINUE WITH THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

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3. THE DP'S DECISION TO CHANGE AFFILIATION RESULTS FROM
THAT GROUP'S VIEW THAT THE SET DECISION TO DISQUALITY THE
DP WAS BASED ON A POLITICAL DECISION BY THE GOE RATHER
THAN ON THE BONA FIDE FAILURE OF THE PARTY TO MEET THE
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INSCRIPTION. THE ASSUMPTION OF
A NUMBER OF POLITICIANS IS THAT THE SET'S DISQUALIFICATION
WAS BASED ON PERSONAL HOSTILITY TOWARD HURTADO ON THE
PART OF CERTAIN HIGH LEVEL GOE OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS THE
WISH TO LIMIT THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE CFP'S ASSAD BUCARAM
FROM EXERCISING POLITICAL POWER OR INFLUENCE.

4. COMMENT: OUR READING OF THE ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL
PARTIES LAWS TURNS UP NO SPECIFIC PROVISIONS THAT WOULD
PREVENT THE AFFILIATION OF THE DP CANDIDATES WITH THE CFP.
THE QUALIFICATIONS PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTIONS LAW
MERELY SAY THAT CANDIDATES MUST BE MEMBERS OF AND SPONSORED
BY A RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTY (THE CFP IS RECOGNIZED),
AS WELL AS MEET OTHER SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS AGE,
NATIONALITY, ETC. IF THE SET REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE
HURTADO'S VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY ON THE CFP TICKET,
THE GOE WILL FIND DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING ANYONE
THAT THE DISQUALIFICATION OF HURTADO IS LEGITIMATE AND
BASED ON A PURELY OBJECTIVE READING OF THE LAW BY THE SET.

5. THE SWITCH IN AFFILIATION COULD DAMAGE THE PRESTIGE
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OF THE DP SOMEWHAT, BUT THIS IS NOT CERTAIN. MOST LIKELY,
THE DP CONSTITUENCY WILL BELIEVE THAT ITS CANDIDATES
ARE MAKING THE BEST OF WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE AN UNFAIR DEAL.

6. HURTADO HAS BEEN CHARGING IN PUBLIC INTERVIEWS THAT
THE REASON THE GOE IS ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE THE
CANDIDACIES IS BECAUSE THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW MAKES IT
TOO DIFFICULT TO COMMIT FRAUD IN THE BALLOTING RESULTS.
IF SET DOES NOT FIND SOME EXOTIC REASON TO DISQUALIFY
HURTADO, AND IF HIS ANALYSIS IS TRUE - AND MOST POLITICIANS
TEND TO SHARE THE JUDGMENT - IT SEEMS THAT AFTER ALL OF
THE ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED STRING-PULLING, THE GOE WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE FINAL SLATE OF CANDIDATES AND
VOTING RESULTS. AT THIS POINT, POLITICAL OBSERVERS DO
NOT PERCEIVE THE ULTIMATE WINNER AS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION
AND BELIEVE THAT DURAN-BALLEN, HUERTA RENDON, ROLDOS, AND
EVEN BORJA ALL HAVE A SHOT AT WINNING.
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